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# TRAIL & *Landscape*

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BOTANICAL GARDEN



# Trail & Landscape

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## The Ottawa Field - Naturalists' Club

— Founded 1879 —

### President

Daniel F. Brunton

**Objectives of the Club:** To promote the appreciation, preservation and conservation of Canada's natural heritage; to encourage investigation and publish the results of research in all fields of natural history and to diffuse information on these fields as widely as possible; to support and co-operate with organizations engaged in preserving, maintaining or restoring environments of high quality for living things.

**Club Publications:** THE CANADIAN FIELD-NATURALIST, a quarterly devoted to reporting research in all fields of natural history relevant to Canada; TRAIL & LANDSCAPE, providing articles on the natural history of the Ottawa Valley and on local Club activities five times a year; and THE SHRIKE, a bimonthly newsletter on birdwatching in the Ottawa-Hull area, available by separate subscription.

**Field Trips, Lectures** and other natural history activities are arranged for local members; see "Coming Events" in this issue.

**Membership Fees:** Individual (yearly) \$17  
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|   |           |     |
|---|-----------|-----|
| Help the OFNC Seedathon   | - - - - - | 194 |
| Call for Nominations for OFNC Council   | - - - - - | 194 |
| The Defense of Alfred Bog - Update  | - - - - - | 195 |
| Roger Taylor  |           |     |
| Soirée Again a Success  | - - - - - | 196 |
| Jo Carson   |           |     |
| Honorary Membership and 1983 OFNC Awards  | - - - - - | 198 |
| Bill Gummer and Awards Committee Members  |           |     |
| Call for Nominations for OFNC Awards  | - - - - - | 201 |
| A Congregation of Toads   | - - - - - | 202 |
| Jack Holliday   |           |     |
| Council Report  | - - - - - | 203 |
| Bill Gummer   |           |     |
| Recent Bird Sightings   | - - - - - | 204 |
| Stephen Gawn  |           |     |
| Ottawa Collectables: A Spring Repast for<br>Artists and Gourmets/ Ross Anderson | - - - - - | 208 |
| Greenbelt Conservation Program 1983   | - - - - - | 212 |
| Stewart E. Hamill   |           |     |
| Three Views of the FON Conference   | - - - - - | 216 |
| Frank Bell, Jo Carson, Peter Hall   |           |     |
| FON Conference Volunteers   | - - - - - | 225 |
| Roger Taylor  |           |     |
| A Macoun Club Field Trip to the Mer Bleue                                       | - - - - - | 229 |
| A. Latourneau, M. Manga, D. Koepke,<br>P. Chippindale and S. Darbyshire         |           |     |
| The East End of the Mer Bleue - There and<br>Back Again/ Peter Hall             | - - - - - | 232 |
| The Annual Spring Trip to Presqu'ile<br>Provincial Park/ Bruce M. Di Labio      | - - - - - | 234 |
| Coming Events   | - - - - - | 237 |

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## Help the OFNC Seedathon

The third annual OFNC Seedathon will be held on September 11, 1983. A team of birders will put in a full day's birding with sponsors contributing a pledged amount for each species recorded. This year's team will be led by Bruce Di Labio (729-6267). The team should be able to find at least 100 species.

The contributions will be used to purchase bird seed for the Club feeders at Jack Pine Trail, Davidson Road and Pink Road. If there is money left over, it will be used for other bird activities of The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club.

*Please send in your pledge - I wish to sponsor the OFNC team at the rate of \$\_\_\_\_\_ for each bird species identified in the 1983 Seedathon - along with your name and address to:*

Seedathon  
The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club  
Box 3264, Station C  
Ottawa, Ontario  
K1Y 4J5.

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## Call for Nominations for OFNC Council

A Nominating Committee has been chosen by the Council to nominate persons for election to offices and membership of the Council for the year 1984, as required by the Constitution.

We would like to remind Club members that they also may nominate candidates as officers and other members of the Council. Such nominations require the signatures of the nominator and seconder, and a statement of willingness to serve in the specified position by the nominee. Nominations should be sent to the Nominating Committee, The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club, Box 3264, Station C, Ottawa, Ontario K1Y 4J5, to arrive no later than December 15, 1983.

The Committee will also consider any suggestions for nominees which members wish to submit to it by December 15, 1983. It would be helpful if some relevant background on the proposed nominees were provided along with the suggested names.

Roger Taylor  
Chairman, Nominating Committee

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# The Defense of Alfred Bog - Update

The Ontario Municipal Board hearing to decide whether to approve Hardee Farms' application for agricultural zoning in the Bog or to leave it zoned conservation ran from May 29 to June 7. We were very well represented by our lawyers, George Hunter and Meg Kinnear. At the time of writing a decision is pending.

The cost to conservation groups is about \$12,500 for legal fees, which is a factor of two less than what we could have been charged. The Federation of Ontario Naturalists has contributed \$2,500 to this cost; the Alfred Bog raffle, organized by the FON and The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club, has raised about \$4,000 (net); and the Club profits from the FON Conference, which are committed by the Club to Alfred Bog, are expected to amount to at least \$3,000. Consequently, about another \$3,000 are needed to cover the legal fees. This money will have to come from donations to the Alfred Bog Nature Preserve Trust Fund, not specifically earmarked to land acquisition, unless other donations are forthcoming.

Donations either to cover the cost of legal fees or to buy land would be very much appreciated. Cheques should be made payable to The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club and a tax receipt can be issued.

The Trust Fund has more than \$30,000 committed to it. More precise figures will be available for the next issue of *Trail & Landscape*.

Finally, The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club has made its first land acquisition in the Bog. A 20-hectare (50-acre) parcel of the Bog adjacent to Hardee Farms' property was purchased shortly before the Ontario Municipal Board hearing took place. This purchase gave us added and important status as objectors to the proposed zoning change.

Roger Taylor

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## University of Ottawa Noncredit Courses

This fall the University of Ottawa is offering a number of non-credit courses of interest to naturalists, including *Discovering Africa* by Louis Lemieux, former Director of the National Museum of Natural Sciences; *Written in Stone* by geologists Brian Rust and Donald Hogarth; and *Orchids for Everyone* by Marilyn Light. Fees range from \$40 to \$55.

Contact the University's Service for Continuing Education at 231-4263 for further details.

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# Soirée Again A Success

Jo Carson

Conversation and Conservation set the theme for the third annual Soirée held on April 29 at the Unitarian Church.

Conversation was stilled only when the 170 Club members stopped long enough to sample a good choice of wine, selected by Cam Osler and Frank Bell, punch, cheese, crackers and fruit. The well-appointed tables were replenished throughout the evening by a hard-working committee with Eileen Evans in charge of organizing the food.

Conservation was emphasized in a display giving a detailed description of the Alfred Bog, an important wetland threatened by commercialism. It was pointed out that with the disappearance of wetlands, the habitats of unique flora and fauna are being eliminated. To back up the message of conservation, enthusiastic members were selling tickets to other receptive members to raise funds to preserve the 3600-hectare peat bog. Jack Holliday was doing his bit with cocoons of the beautiful Cecropia Moths which he had raised himself ready for hatching. He was selling the cocoons with proceeds tagged to the Alfred Bog Nature Preserve Trust.

The Botany, Art and Photography Groups had a number of worthwhile displays. There was a continuous showing of nature slides with Karin Lehmann in charge. Of special interest to the slide viewers was Kirk Thorsteinson's presentation. His studies of a lizard were awarded the photography prize in the senior division of the Macoun Club.

Although there was a limited response by entrants from the Macoun Club, Paul Catling pointed out that the quality was high. Winners of awards were Peter Manga, intermediate, and Michael Manga, senior, for art. No award was given for collections. Judges for the Macoun Club entries were Karin Lehmann, photography; Diana Laubitz, collections; and Janette Dean, art.

President Dan Brunton again stressed the conservation theme in his address and outlined the need for concerted Club effort to press for government protection of wetland areas. Dan presented an Honorary Membership to Hue MacKenzie, and OFNC Awards to Roger Taylor and Bill Knight, and, in absentia, Loney Dickson. (Read the following article for further details.)

The Soirée wound up with a fun-filled auction by Cam Osler, who stayed with the Conservation theme to the final sale of cheese, all proceeds going to the Alfred Bog Nature Preserve Trust.



*At the Soirée are, top photo, Service Award winner Bill Knight (centre) in conversation with Fran Goodspeed (left) and Jean Hastie, and, lower photo, Member of the Year Roger Taylor.*  
Soirée photographs here and on page 199 by Ken Taylor

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# Honorary Membership and 1983 OFNC Awards

Bill Gummer and Awards Committee Members

Four OFNC awards were presented at the 1983 Soirée: Honorary Membership, Member of the Year, Service Award and Conservation Award. Certificates were presented to the winners by Dan Brunton, President, and once again our thanks to Anne Gruchy for the calligraphy on the certificates.

It should be noted that the Anne Hanes Natural History Award was not presented this year, simply because no candidate of suitable stature was nominated.

The citations for the awards are reproduced below.

## HUE N. MACKENZIE - HONORARY MEMBER

A member of The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club for over twenty years, Hue has a long history of Club participation. He was a member of the Council between 1964 and 1980, was Vice-president in 1966 and was President from 1967 to 1969. He has been a member of various committees and chairman of several. His most recent chairmanship was that of the Centennial Steering Committee.

Hue was instrumental in developing what is now the very active Conservation Committee. He also served as Club representative to the Federation of Ontario Naturalists for many years. He played a key role as co-ordinator and participant in the Club's Native Orchid Location Survey. Hue has contributed to both *Trail & Landscape* and *The Canadian Field-Naturalist*, has made presentations in the monthly meeting series and has led field trips on behalf of the Club. Indeed, it is difficult to point to a major Club activity over the past two decades that has not profited from the "MacKenzie Touch".

In the mid-1970s Hue carried out a study of Club operations which led to a report to the Council entitled "Club Policies and Management Practices". This report led, in turn, to increased efficiency in operations and a strengthening of Committees and better definition of their roles.

In 1974 Hue moved the resolution that led to the Centennial Planning Group and, subsequently, to the Centennial Steering Committee, which he chaired until its dissolution in late 1982. The enormous effort that Hue put into the preparation, planning



New Honorary Member, Hue MacKenzie, at the Club's recent Soirée

and execution of Centennial Year projects is largely responsible for so many of these being so successful.

In his efforts on behalf of The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club, we have seen Hue's dedication to the Club and his achievement as a naturalist. We are happy indeed to have Hue MacKenzie join our select group of Honorary Members.

#### ROGER TAYLOR - MEMBER OF THE YEAR

The Member of the Year Award is given to the member judged to have contributed the most to The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club during the previous year. For the Club's second such award, the Awards Committee was unanimous in the selection of Roger Taylor.

Roger has a well-deserved reputation for stepping into the breach, to prevent an ongoing program from faltering, or to take on a new initiative. In essence he is a catalyst.

The Member of the Year Award is in recognition of this type of activity, specifically the reorganization of *The Shrike* including the creation of a computer-based file of bird records; the lead role as a member, and later chairman, of the Conservation Committee in bringing Federal and Provincial Government

attention to the potential damage that raccoon dogs could do to the Canadian environment; his co-ordination of letter writing campaigns on behalf of Ontario Parks and wetlands; and his co-ordination of the fight against Amendment 24 of the Regional Municipality of Ottawa-Carleton.

In addition to the foregoing, Roger is Chairman of the Conservation Committee and the Nominating Committee, a member of the Federation of Ontario Naturalists Board of Directors, liaison for the Membership Committee with the National Research Council Computation Centre, and is active in birding and other Club outings.

#### WILLIAM H. KNIGHT - SERVICE AWARD

Behind every great man, they say, there is a great woman. Behind every great naturalists club there are those toilers who do all the important things that need to be done to keep things moving, and that are so often taken for granted in the smooth operation of the club. It is our pleasure this year to select from our band of background workers for the 1982 Service Award, Bill Knight.

Over the years Bill has been a tireless worker. He is the backbone and mainstay of the Education and Publicity Committee and often is the one to ensure that the Club meets its commitments for displays and publications. Bill prints and distributes *The Shrike*, and, as well, he prints notices, tickets, placemats (such as for the Centennial), certificates and awards.

He is familiar with the situation in which fast action is required because everything was left a little bit late, or because we all know Bill will get it done.

Bill has produced the OFNC Award certificates, so it is particularly fitting - and a real pleasure - to present him with one of these and to add to it our most sincere thanks for all his efforts on behalf of the Club.

#### H. LONEY DICKSON - CONSERVATION AWARD

Loney Dickson was a Vice-President of the Club for a year and a half prior to his departure for Alberta in 1981. He was an active member, and later chairman, of the Conservation Committee, and by virtue of his leadership the committee broadened its outlook to cover the range of issues it now handles. His voice of reason has been heeded in times of controversy, and today the Conservation Committee is widely recognized as the most important conservation voice in eastern Ontario.

Loney co-authored (with Stephen Darbyshire) a report on

significant natural areas for the National Capital Commission. It has been important in establishing protection for a number of valuable natural areas in Ottawa-Carleton.

Loney played a prominent role in the re-establishment of special interest groups within the Club. The success of this move has been quite evident.

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club's 1982 Conservation Award is made to Loney Dickson as our recognition of this young man's energy and efforts to teach us all the value of natural areas and their contents.

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## Call for Nominations for OFNC Awards

This is a call to members for nominations for the following OFNC Awards:

1. Honorary Member - in recognition of contribution in marked degree to the successful working of the Club, or of outstanding contribution to Canadian natural history, generally over a period of time.
2. Member of the Year Award - for the member judged by the Awards Committee to have contributed the most to the Club in the previous year.
3. Service Award - in recognition of the member who has contributed significantly to the smooth running of the Club in that year.
4. Conservation Award - in recognition of a member's recent, outstanding contribution to the cause of conservation.
5. Anne Hanes Natural History Award - in recognition of an outstanding contribution by an amateur to our knowledge, understanding and appreciation of the natural history of the Ottawa Valley.

Nominations for any of these awards should be sent to W.K. Gummer, Chairman, Awards Committee, 2230 Lawn Avenue, Ottawa K2B 7B2 (telephone 596-1148) by December 15, 1983.

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# A Congregation of Toads

Jack Holliday

At the cottage near McGregor Lake, Val des Monts, Quebec, my attempts at gardening have met with mixed success. In an area of about 10 m x 12 m which Hydro Quebec had devastated while installing a power line, I found about half a metre of "soil" above the granite rocks.

By dint of much hard labour I removed the stumps and rocks (at least most of them) and mixed the top 25 cm of forest duff with layers of ash and subsoil. With the addition of lime and fertilizer (5-20-20) garden vegetables grew with some success, especially beans. The soil was also ideal for delphiniums and lilies. The tree canopy is not more than 15 m away, so that plants must reach high to obtain needed sunlight. This factor produced 2-metre delphiniums with weak stems, each of which must be supported with a pole.

Lilies also had a tendency to lean toward the sun, but my, those hybrids developed by Jan de Graff in Oregon thrived. One magnificent "Imperial Crimson" grew into a clump of three after several years. Each stem produced ten 25 cm diameter flowers. Having decided to split the clump one late October afternoon, I deftly inserted the shovel "all round" and gently prized the clump free. Noticing a movement in the bottom of the hole, I set aside the clumps of lilies while I made an examination to determine what had moved. A gentle probing with the fingertips unearthed a toad. Not a big one. Medium sized, about the size of a lemon.

Strange, a hibernating toad under a clump of lilies. Supposed he had burrowed into the soft soil and accidentally ended up under the clump of lilies. Not so strange after all. Now, return the toad to his safe burrow, but first remove the lily bulblets, to be grown on into flowering size. Probing with the hands produced a second toad. Surprise! Two toads in the same burrow. Happenstance? Then a third, and a fourth. All sleepily trying to shuffle themselves back into the comfortable spot they had selected to rest out the winter. All lemon-sized, varying shades of "toad-brown".

Four toads nestled together raise the question of whether this is a normal practice. Certainly, snakes congregate to overwinter in favourable underground places. But then, why under the lily clump? Do toads purposely burrow under the bulbs to gain protection against freezing provided by the bulb for its own survival? We are told that overwintering bulbs such as tulips and daffodils can protect themselves from freezing, to a degree. Probably lilies have much the same ability.

Does the toad have a method of sensing where a favourable spot is to be found before burrowing? If so, what are the indications? Odour? Temperature? Some other sense? Plenty of questions, no easy answers.

I think toads probably can sense a good place to burrow. I think that toads do burrow under plants for protection. I think toads do not ordinarily winter in groups but may independently arrive at the same favourable spot. Has anyone else found toads together, under lilies or other plants?

# Council Report

**Bill Gummer**

It is announced with regret that Ken Strang has found it necessary to resign from the Council itself and from the position of Vice-President. He will retain membership on the Membership Committee.

The sale of *Cornus racemosa* to Club members produced \$84. for seed for Club bird feeders. The Council once again thanks Jim Wickware for his generosity in making shrubs available for this purpose.

At the May meeting of the Council, the Treasurer's report projected a deficit of several thousand dollars for the 1983-1984 fiscal year. This deficit is chiefly because of anticipated increases in operating costs. In June, the Council considered ways to counteract the deficit. An increase in fees for 1984 was proposed and accepted by majority vote of the members of the Council. The increase has been calculated to enable the Club to continue to operate at its current level of activity. (The new fees for 1984 are listed on the inside front cover.)

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## Ontario Hydro Power Corridors in Eastern Ontario

Watch out for the next round of Ontario Hydro Participation Centres in October. Exact routes within the Alternative Corridors between Kingston and Ottawa, and between Ottawa and Cornwall, will be presented. Be sure to attend to make sure those high power lines do not cross your favourite wetland, or scenic spot down the Rideau. Your input will be noted and taken into consideration by Hydro. The preferred route will be announced in the spring of 1984.

*Joyce Reddoch*

# Recent Bird Sightings

Stephen Gawn



This report covers the months of March, April and May of 1983. These three months can be thought of as spring migration, although migrants also arrive before and after the period, in February and June. The three months also overlap with the winter and summer breeding periods.

While it was still winter when the period started, there could be no denying that spring was on its way. In the opening days of March, starlings were singing, crows exhibited courting behaviour, Horned Larks were present, House Sparrows were more chipper and chipping more; in general the overwintering birds seemed, anthropomorphically speaking, more cheerful.

A warm front on March 6th and 7th brought with it 200 Canada Geese, 9 Tundra Swans (which remained near Kemptville until April 4th), an early pintail, a Northern Harrier, two early Killdeers, 76 Herring Gulls, 1000 Ring-billed Gulls, many more Horned Larks, a very early Loggerhead Shrike, two Eastern Meadowlarks, 400 Red-winged Blackbirds, 64 grackles, 21 cowbirds and three Song Sparrows. At the same time, word quickly spread that two adult Golden Eagles and an immature Bald Eagle could be found near Luskville. The birds remained in the vicinity for the next week, often affording observers excellent views. It was speculated that they had been feeding on carrion, perhaps a deer.

Two Wood Ducks were observed on March 14th, and on the 15th an overwintering Ring-neck Duck was joined by migrant comrades and its close relative, the Greater Scaup. On March 12th, three Barrow's Goldeneyes, all females, were recorded, a high total for this very uncommon duck. An early Merlin was noted on March 13th. The period March 10th to 20th saw higher than average numbers of gulls. On March 10th there were 48 of the increasing Great Black-backed Gull; the normally uncommon Glaucous Gull peaked at 46 on the 12th, and four less-common Iceland Gulls were recorded on the 13th. Not to be outdone, Herring Gulls peaked at 800 (March 14th) and Ring-billed at 1000 the following day. An early Eastern Phoebe on March 9th beat the next arrival by a month. Although robins had been noted during the warm spell the previous week, numbers had picked up only to 23 by March 15th. A Rose-breasted Grosbeak on March 14th was an overwintering bird; the normal arrival date is early May. An early Woodcock was noted on March 14th, and that same day redwing numbers exceeded 1000.

March 17th and 18th saw over 1000 Canada Geese and 600 pintail at Carlsbad Springs. For the next week or so, very few birds moved into the area; in fact there was a net loss as migrants resumed their travels. A Pied-billed Grebe and two Great Blue Herons were noted on March 30. An early Turkey Vulture was spotted soaring overhead on March 27th. A hundred robins were counted on March 27th, and a few bluebirds had trickled in by the close of the month (although a harbinger had been spotted on March 17th). Did the birds know a storm was due?

By April 2nd the snow had just about disappeared; however, the severe snowstorm on April 2nd and 3rd changed that. But once the weather had settled migration resumed. A Blue-winged Teal was spotted on the 4th, pairs of Gadwall and wigeon on the 6th, and a shoveler on the 7th. Single Peregrine Falcons were spotted on April 1st, 2nd and 6th. Snipe made their debut on April 6th. The first migrant kingfisher and flicker were recorded during the first week of April. A Tree Swallow was recorded on April 2nd and a Savannah Sparrow the next day. A Yellow-rumped Warbler on April 1st may have been a successful overwintering bird rather than a migrant, although April 10th did signal the arrival of migrants. The resident House Finch in the west end was present throughout the period, and one, or perhaps two, females were noted in the east end in April.

During the second week of April migrants started streaming in, with Horned Grebe and two Snow Geese on April 9th and Common Loon, Red-necked Grebe and the uncommon Canvasback on April 14th. The first coots and gallinules were recorded during the week. The year's first Greater Yellowlegs, on April 8th, were accompanied by an early Lesser Yellowlegs and three early Pectoral Sandpipers. The only Bonaparte's Gull record this April was a flock of 18 on the 11th. A sapsucker was recorded April 13th, as were Barn Swallows and a Ruby-crowned Kinglet. The 14th saw the arrival of Bank Swallows, Purple Martins, Winter Wrens and Hermit Thrush. The first Rusty Blackbird was noted on the 9th; the main movement began with 30 on the 14th. Many of the sparrows arrived in mid-April: Field on the 9th, Fox on the 11th, White-throated on the 13th, Chipping on the 14th, and Vesper on the 16th.

The first Green-backed Heron and American Bittern were spotted on April 23rd. Sixteen Gadwall on April 14th was high for spring, while 20 shoveler on the 17th was higher than average for this distinctive bird. On April 20th two late Barrow's Goldeneye were recorded at Shirleys Bay. Over 20 Turkey Vultures were recorded between April 21st and 24th. This species is getting more common in the Ottawa area. A Bald Eagle was spotted on April 18th, and the first Osprey on the 16th. The first Virginia Rail was recorded on the 17th and the first Sora a week later. The first sighting of the uncommon Upland Sandpiper was April 19th, although the main movement didn't begin until the 26th. An early Dunlin was noted on April 16th; the next record

was the 29th.

A total of 48 Red-necked Grebes on April 30th was higher than average. Two peregrines were seen on April 29th: an adult over Clyde Woods and an immature bird at Shirleys Bay. A Blue-gray Gnatcatcher on April 29th was both early for this locally rare species and a sign of several others to come. Late April sees the beginning of the arrival of warblers: among the Yellow-rumpeds was a Pine on the 24th and a Northern Waterthrush on the 30th.

May was wet and cold; however, this didn't seem to affect the birds or birders too much. A Snowy Egret was observed along Cody Creek near Almonte May 6th and 7th for one of only a handful of records of this southerner. The uncommon Black-crowned Night Heron was observed on May 1st. On May 7th a birder was treated to the sight of 70 Snow Geese flying by his apartment window. An adult peregrine was at Britannia on May 4th. On May 1st a Sandhill Crane flew over Kanata; the only other Sandhill Crane of the period was the one overwintering near North Gower, last recorded on April 2nd. A first summer-plumaged male Ruff was at Richmond sewage lagoons from May 3rd to 8th. Wilson's Phalarope migration peaked at 8 on May 5th. An adult lesser Black-backed Gull (rare in spring) was present at the Nepean dump from May 3rd to 8th, and, a bit trickier to identify, a probably first summer-plumage individual was observed on the 3rd and again on the 21st. A Laughing Gull at the dump on May 5th was the third ever recorded; the other two were both in the fall. While looking for rare gulls, observers realized that some of the Ring-billed Gulls were nesting on the dump itself, a rarely recorded phenomenon. There was an amazing 20,000 Canada Geese at Thurso on May 7th.

The first Solitary Vireo appeared May 3rd, the first pipits May 4th, Cedar Waxwing and catbird May 7th, and Veery May 8th. A gnatcatcher was at Shirleys Bay May 1st; another at Richmond on the 3rd, and a pair in the east end on the 8th. Warblers are one of the main attractions of spring. They arrive in two distinct waves. The first wave included Black-and-white (May 3rd), Orange-crowned (May 1st), Nashville (May 3rd), Parula (May 7th), Yellow (May 3rd), Cape May (May 7th), Black-throated Blue (May 3rd), Black-throated Green (May 1st), Blackburnian (May 7th), Palm (May 3rd) and Redstart (May 3rd). Accompanying these were two very rare Prairie Warblers; one on May 1st in Aylmer, the other May 3rd and 4th at Vincent Massey Park. The second warbler wave included Golden-winged (May 21st), Tennessee (May 9th), Magnolia and Chestnut-sided (May 8th), Bay-breasted (May 11th, although two early individuals were reported on the 5th), Blackpoll (May 21st), Mourning (May 18th), Wilson's (May 16th) and Canada (May 19th). In this wave was Ottawa's third ever Blue-winged Warbler; a male observed by a birdwalk at Britannia on May 14th, and a rare Cerulean Warbler, also at Britannia, on the 17th. The first oriole arrived May 3rd, with

the main migration beginning May 7th. The later sparrows arrived during the first week of May: White-crowned (May 1st), Clay-colored (May 5th), Grasshopper (May 6th) and Lincoln's (May 7th). A male House Finch was observed in Vincent Massey Park on May 4th.

Brant peaked at 500 on May 15th, and the rare (especially in spring) White-fronted Goose was observed at Carlsbad Springs on May 9th. Rare in spring was a Surf Scoter at Shirleys Bay on May 12th and two Ruddy Ducks, both males: one at Shirleys Bay and the other at Richmond from May 11th to 23rd. Yet another peregrine, an adult, was observed at Shirleys Bay on May 15th. Eleven Short-billed Dowitchers on May 15th was a good number for spring. The first Whip-poor-will was heard on May 10th, and the first hummingbird buzzed by a couple of days later. The 15th saw the arrival of the first Alder and Olive-sided Flycatchers. The mockingbird that had been frequenting Clyde Woods all winter was last seen on May 12th. Another gnatcatcher, this one at Vincent Massey Park, was noted on the 11th. The only Bohemian Waxwings of the period were two observed in Clyde Woods on May 11th. Rose-breasted Grosbeaks arrived on May 8th, Indigo Bunting on the 10th, and Scarlet Tanagers on the 13th.

The secretive Least Bittern was heard calling in Richmond Fen on May 17th, as were Yellow Rails on May 21st. A high of 32 Bonaparte's Gulls at Britannia Pier on May 17th was high for this relatively uncommon migrant. May 17th saw the return of Red-headed Woodpeckers, and one was banded at the Innis Point Banding Station two days later. The main flight of wood-peewees arrived May 14th, although an early individual had been recorded on May 5th. More gnatcatchers were seen: one in the Gatineau on May 18th and another in Britannia on the 20th.

The last week of May usually doesn't produce too many surprises. Whimbrels are a rare migrant in Ottawa; nine on the 23rd was a notable sighting; however, this number was eclipsed by an unprecedented 125 on May 26th. A high of 160 Dunlin was observed on May 24th. In late May Arctic Terns fly up the Ottawa River on their way north. This year the migration was more pronounced than usual: between May 23rd and 28th over 80 birds were studied as they flew by. The rare Caspian Tern was recorded on May 23rd and 26th, and the even rarer Forster's was at Shirleys Bay on the 24th. A Snowy Owl on May 28th was one of the latest ever. The arrival of Willow Flycatchers on May 23rd signaled the drawing to a close of spring migration.

While the spring of 1983 didn't produce any mind-boggling rarities, it did produce enough rare birds, diversity and unusual sightings to keep any birder, seasoned or novice, suitably entertained.

# Ottawa Collectables:

A Spring Repast for Artists and Gourmets

Ross Anderson

Buon Giorno! *Trail & Landscape* readers may find this happy greeting useful when collecting dandelion greens. We met our Italian neighbors filling shopping bags around Clyde Woods one day early in June, and they gave us their recipe. Pick the leafy greens from new plants without a flower, blanche in boiling water to remove the bitter taste, and serve with a dressing of oil and vinegar.

That is the way if you like them cooked! Katharine opened the season in early May this year with what we called "spring green salad". It was composed of small yellow-green dandelion leaves from the local fields, alfalfa shoots and mandarin sections. It tasted very original, the dandelion giving a slightly bitter background to the sweet and bland taste of the rest.

Spring happens too fast to sample everything edible, to admire every colour and to enjoy every smell. Our list of collectables this year includes several items which must be re-discovered knowing the date and place they are likely to occur.

Morels turned up in quantity for the first time in our experience. First, Yellow Morel (*Morchella esculenta*) from the sand dunes in Prince Edward County, then Black Morel (*M. elata*) from mixed woods near Carleton Place, and, finally, False Morel (*Gyromitra esculenta*) from Slack Road in Ottawa, between the 11th and 27 of May. In that same period we collected an estimated 80 specimens of *M. esculenta* growing in association with dead elms on the limestone soil around Clyde Woods. And we learned how to cook them, or at least how we like them best - with wild asparagus, "au beurre"!

The wild asparagus grows in clumps in the open field and coppices where it is planted by the birds. It can be located, ready for cutting, by finding the lacy, yellow-ochre stalks from last year lying on the ground flattened by the winter's snow. Collect the asparagus with your morels, if you can. Slice the mushrooms lengthwise for washing, cut to bite size and cook to your taste in boiling water.

Do the same for the asparagus, but keep the beautiful red and green stalks whole to eat with your fingers. Serve the two in separate dishes with a dip of melted butter or soya margarine laced with garlic! Then sit back and reflect on where and when such a dish can ever be served again for there is nothing else



## Dandelion / Taraxacum officinale

Dandelion greens, alfalfa shoots and mandarin sections make an original "spring-green" salad. The dandelion gives a slightly bitter background to the sweet and bland taste of the rest.

quite like it.

Except for fiddleheads! We have discovered, as you may have long ago, that fiddleheads do not grow only in New Brunswick; they also grow around Ottawa. We collect them with our canoe from the flooded islands in the Ottawa River off Pointe Gatineau. The "annual pilgrimage" took place this year on May 23. Although late according to our diary, the fiddleheads were just beginning to appear, and no mature fronds of the tall Ostrich Fern were up, so cold was the spring of 1983.

It took eight kilometres of paddling to deliver the pickers and retrieve the crop - enough to whet the appetite. Most of our harvest went to friends and freezers, but a batch was prepared for table first evening, boiled lightly and served with butter and lemon as a complement to scallops!

But not everything collectable requires to be eaten. It is interesting to review the season and recall the panoply of colour which evolves from day to day. Stoneseed or Gromwell, the weed we gather in winter for its tiny porcelain-white seeds, is in bloom on June 13th. Now it is bushy green with small, greenish-white flowers like white forget-me-not. On the same morning, a crop of gold appeared in the fields by Clyde Woods: Buttercup, Balsam Ragwort and Goat's-beard. The last two appeared overnight along with Cow Vetch, Hop Clover and the miniature white stars of bedstraw.

Wild Strawberry was in copious blossom on June 4, making us imagine a bumper crop, but this hope always proves ephemeral. The berries are few and invisibly small, scarcely enough to taste, by the end of June.

Still, 1983 is a good collectors' year. We ate two wild mushrooms fresh from the woods in January: Oyster Mushroom (*Pleurotus ostreatus*) and Velvet-foot (*Flamulina velutipes*); made the first mushroom omelette on May 17 with a crop of Gray Ink-caps (*Coprinus atramentarius*) from our own side-yard on Castle Hill; picked Horse Mushroom (*Agaricus arvensis*) on June 6 near Adolphustown; and proved the *Trail & Landscape* recipe for mushroom egg-drop soup (pages 73-78 in Vol. 17, no. 2) on June 21 with a huge *Pleurotus* from the trunk of a maple tree on Morningside Lane.

Next on the list is milkweek broccoli, sumac-ade, and Purple Loosestrife to decorate the church. They are ripening now around Clyde Woods - Ottawa collectables for the season to come.

#### References

A number of good references on wild edibles are available in libraries and bookshops.

For plain enthusiasm and good reading, try:

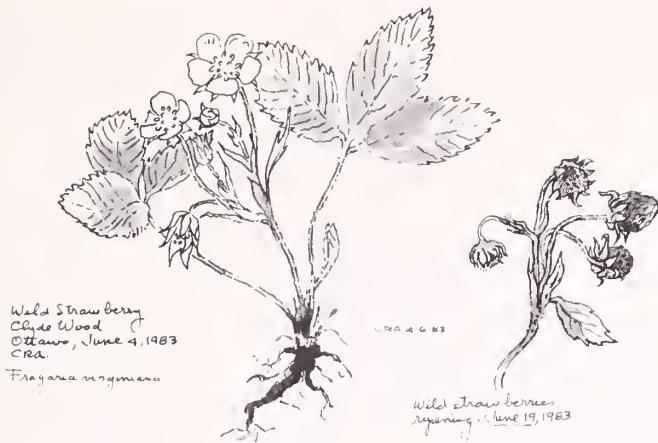
*Stalking the Wild Asparagus* by Euell Gibbons, David McKay Company, New York, 1962.

For a compendium of knowledge and trail references:

*A Field Guide to Edible Wild Plants of Eastern and Central North America* by Lee Peterson, Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, 1978.

And for the best magazine on Canadian geography in general and article on fiddleheads in particular:

*Fiddleheads, a gourmet treat in the wild* by Nicole Bernshaw in the Canadian Geographic, April/May 1983, pp 74-78.



### Wild strawberry / *Fragaria virginiana*

Wild strawberry flowers make a carpet of white around Clyde Wood early in June. From experience very few berries seem to ripen and those that do are so small that picking produces little more than a taste.



*Lithospermum officinale*

### Stoneseed / *Lithospermum officinale*

Stoneseed, or gromwell, is bushy green with small greenish-white flowers in spring. In winter the tiny porcelain-white seeds of this plant resemble a collection of dress-makers pins.

# Greenbelt Conservation Program 1983

Stewart E. Hamill

The Greenbelt Conservation Section is responsible for managing and protecting natural areas and natural resources in the Greenbelt. These areas and resources include Mer Bleue Conservation Area, Stony Swamp Conservation Area, Green's Creek Conservation Area, Pinhey Forest Reserve, Pine Grove Forest Reserve, Carlsbad Springs Forest Reserve, Shirley's Bay open space reserve land, Bruce Pit open space reserve land, all unleased land, and special conservation zones (woodlots, creeks, ravines) on farms and leased land throughout the Greenbelt. They amount to about 10,000 hectares or one-half the total area of the Greenbelt. These designations, their definitions, and management policies are described and mapped in the Greenbelt Management Plan and the Greenbelt Brochure, both available from the National Capital Commission (address below).

Ottawa field-naturalists may be interested in how these areas are being managed and protected. I will attempt, therefore, to summarize this year's program as follows:

## Overall Programs

Nuisance Wildlife - policy being prepared for a livetrapping and release program for groundhogs, skunks, raccoons, squirrels, bats and foxes on and near National Capital Commission land. Tranquilizer equipment is now available for deer, moose and bear.

Beaver Management - annual inventory and program for trapping by private trappers using Conibear or livetraps.

Specimen Mounting and Analysis - road kills are collected for mounting by the National Museum of Natural Sciences. Rabies suspects are delivered to Agriculture Canada for analysis.

Grasscutting - advice is provided to Maintenance Division on mowing urban lands. (See Trail & Landscape 16(4): 196-198, and 17(2): 51 for a background study and an example.)

Wildfire Control - a spring fire patrol is carried out each year.

Search and Rescue - this program is maintained to find lost persons.

Enforcement - the two Greenbelt Conservation Officers have been appointed Supernumerary Special RCMP Constables with the powers of peace officers. They can now write summonses and arrest persons if necessary to enforce the National Capital Commission Property Regulations.

Enforcement programs include fencing and fence repair,

control of the Greenbelt's 900 entrances including 300 locked gates by gate patrol, poaching patrol by helicopter, boat patrol for Lower Duck Island, motorbike and ATC patrol of trails and sandpits, snowmobile patrol by helicopter and snowmobile, Permission to Enter system, Permit to Collect or Do Research system, Tree Cutting Permit system, Occurrence Report system, file of infractions and warnings, Christmas tree surveillance, and actions to prevent drinking parties and bonfires.

Forest Management - Greenbelt Forest Reserves are managed under agreement with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources. Co-ordination of this program is carried out by the Conservation Section. In addition, Scout plantations on National Capital Commission land and plantations in Mer Bleue Conservation Area are being maintained.

Resource Management Planning and Development - studies are being carried out to provide information required for the preparation of resource management plans. Development plans are being implemented:

Mer Bleue Conservation Area

- plant inventory
- beaver management experimental plan
- Spotted Turtle study
- research on birds in the Ramsayville Marsh (University of Ottawa)

Stony Swamp Conservation Area

- breeding bird census
- forest management strategies study
- nature reserve management study
- rail fencing

Green's Creek Conservation Area

- watershed study
- monitoring and rehabilitation program.

Greenbelt Conservation Studies

Most studies are printed in the Greenbelt Conservation Studies series and are available at no charge from the National Capital Commission, Greenbelt Division, Conservation Section, 161 Laurier Avenue West, 8th Floor, Ottawa, Ontario K1P 6J6, or telephone 992-4834.

The following studies have been produced to date:

Billington, C. and E.W. Tozer. 1977.

*Ecological Inventory of NCC Urban Corridors.*

Gagnon, D. 1980.

*Inventaire des Ressources Naturelles des Boisés de la Région de Hull.*

Dickson, H.L. and S.J. Darbyshire. 1979.

*Biological Inventories of 23 Areas in the Ottawa Region.*

Volume 1: Text and Maps

Volume 2: Plant Species Composition Tables.

Map: Significant Natural Areas in Ottawa-Hull. 1981.

1. Brunton, D.F. 1980.  
*Shirley's Bay Life Sciences.*
2. Miller, L., L. Deavitt and R. Killeen. 1980.  
*Management Proposals for Watts Creek.*
3. Adamowicz. 1981.  
*An Experimental Plan for Controlling the Effects of Beaver Activity on Bog Vegetation in the Mer Bleue.*
4. Morrison, W.O., G. Cole, K. McLachlan, S. Laframboise and E. Laubitz. 1981.  
*Avifauna Survey of Vacant Grasslands.*
5. Brunton, D.F. 1982.  
*Stony Swamp Life Sciences.*
6. Fox, M.G. 1982.  
*The Impact and Management of Visitor Use at Mer Bleue Bog, National Capital Commission Greenbelt, Ottawa.*
7. Wilson, H. 1982.  
*Green's Creek Conservation Area: Biophysical Resource Inventory and Management Study.*
8. Cole, G., C. Allan, D. Anfossi, K. McLachlan and M. Molozzi. 1982.  
*Management Proposals for Urban Natural Areas.*
9. Dean, J. 1982.  
*An Inventory and Evaluation of the Birds of Innis Point, Ottawa, Ontario.*
10. Thurlow & Associates Environmental Control Consultants Ltd. 1983.  
*Wildlife & Habitat Inventory Stony Swamp Conservation Area.*
11. DelCan, Deleuw Cather Canada Ltd. 1983.  
*Stony Swamp Conservation Area Hydrogeological Study.*
12. Water and Earth Science Associates Ltd. 1983.  
*Land Use and Management Plan, Maipo Leasehold, Green's Creek Conservation Area.*
13. CONSOR Inc. 1983.  
*Inventaire Forestier du Secteur de la Sablière de Bruce, Ceinture de Verdure.*

14. Dendron Resource Surveys Ltd. 1983.  
*An Evaluation of the Plantations of the Former Central Research Forest, Mer Bleue Conservation Area.*
15. Wilson, H.C. 1983.  
*Mer Bleue Conservation Area: Land Use Evaluation and Inventory.*
16. Wilson, H.C. and C. Paine. 1983.  
*Mer Bleue Conservation Area: Building Site Evaluations.*
17. Brunton, D.F. 1983.  
*An Ecological Inventory of the Green's Creek Study Area, National Capital Commission Greenbelt, Gloucester, Ontario.*

*Stewart E. Hamill is Chief, Conservation Section, Greenbelt Division, Property Branch, National Capital Commission.*

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### A New Organization for Ontario Field Botanists

Until recently there has been no direct way for the many amateur and professional field botanists in Ontario to keep up with what's happening in that rapidly changing area of interest. Early in 1983 a new organization was formed specifically to address this need and to improve communications amongst Ontario's field botanists.

*The Plant Press* is the (quarterly) newsletter of the association; it includes reports of projects in progress, notification of articles of importance in other journals, personal updates of botanists, information on techniques and resources available to field botanists ... and much more. Almost 200 subscribers from across Ontario have already signed up - a clear sign of the bright future ahead for this organization.

You can become a member and receive *The Plant Press* too by sending a cheque for \$10.00 (made out to FIELD BOTANISTS OF ONTARIO) c/o J. Webber, Box 537, Streetsville Postal Station, Mississauga, Ontario L5M 2C1. And feel free to contact me (829-7307) if you'd like further information.

Dan Brunton  
Associate Editor (Eastern Ontario)  
THE PLANT PRESS

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# Three Views of the FON Conference

Frank Bell, Jo Carson, Peter Hall

## INTRODUCTION

The Federation of Ontario Naturalists approached The Ottawa Field Naturalists' Club late last year to help out when the chosen host club for the Annual FON Conference withdrew. The OFNC in its usual Kamikaze style did not hesitate in taking up this new challenge. After six months of feverish activity, participants began to pour into Ottawa for the conference at Carleton University. What did the 482 registrants do and see on the June 3 to 5 weekend?



*At the Annual Business Meeting on Friday evening, Ontario Minister of Natural Resources Alan Pope (right) received a standing ovation from the members and a carnation from FON General Manager Mike Singleton for his announcement of 155 new Provincial Parks.*  
photograph by Charlie Beddoe



*The hard-working OFNC members responsible for registration under Ellaine Dickson (standing) got conference participants off to a smooth beginning.* photograph by Charlie Beddoe

#### EXCURSIONS by Frank Bell

In a way the "big" Federation of Ontario Naturalists Annual General Meeting and Conference seemed like an anticlimax to all the preparation and expectation that preceded it. After many weeks of buildup, it was all over before you knew it. Many wished that it could have lasted longer - for one thing there were those tough decisions on which talk to attend, and especially on which outing to go on.

For all those who missed the outing, here's a brief rundown.

Early morning bird walks, like the two planned to Vincent Massey Park, are a must with nature conferences. There was a good turnout of perhaps 50 on the first morning, down to only 10 on the second. As one of the three leaders said, "Maybe the word got out we didn't see anything the first morning". ("Anything" to the top-quality leaders means something uncommon or rare).

There were Yellow Rail outings into Richmond Fen on two evenings, but it was rather embarrassing for leaders Bruce Di Labio and Mark Gawn when those so-and-so rails would not cooperate. However, other good things were seen or heard.

On the bat-finding outing, with Brock Fenton, the animals also failed to co-operate, but a vibrant leader and fascinating demonstrations with some captive bats released with luminous markers left all content.

The Dinobus came back from extinction on the Friday evening and took a busload plus standees of ambitious (4:30 a.m. on Saturday) persons to the main banding area of Janette Dean *et al.*'s very active Ottawa Banding Group. Since it was breeding season, there were more people than birds, but to see them so close was a thrill for many.

There were two Saturday afternoon outings in addition to the self-guided tours to the Arboretum and Carleton University greenhouses. A botany outing along the Rideau River near Carleton University was led by Albert Dugal and Sheila Thomson. A special checklist was supplied to the 30 participants. The bus to see breeding Grasshopper and Clay-coloured Sparrows behind the airport held standees, so popular was the excursion. Both these species were seen by all participants, but the leaders Tom Hanrahan and Bruce Di Labio admit that a Cecropia moth emerging from its cocoon stole the show.



Leader David White (white hat) shows the Alvar and Prairie excursion participants some of the rare plants of The Burnt Lands near Almonte. photograph by Dan Brunton

Sunday was the day reserved for most outings, with 13 scheduled. Advancing the departure of the birding outing to Gatineau Park to a more birding hour of 6:30 a.m. resulted in many dropouts. However, the earlier hour resulted in better birding, and a major part of the walk on the "Golden-winged Warbler Trail", near Lac Philippe, was completed before the rains came. Leaders here were Roger Foxall, Steve O'Donnell, Roger Taylor and Frank Bell.

The lichen and insect outings combined transportation and, therefore, husband and wife leaders, the Brodos. Then they separated - for the walk, that is. The lichen walk struck pay dirt in the Regional Forest west of North Gower - a new lichen species for eastern Ontario was found.

Innis point was too flooded for the Alvars and Prairies outing led by David White and Dan Brunton, so that gave them time to visit the South March highlands in addition to The Burnt Lands near Almonte. At the latter spot, the highlights were a large colony of Ram's-head Lady-slipper orchids and the finding of a Nashville Warbler nest.

The botany outing to Gatineau Park led by Jack Gillett and Albert Dugal was "sold out" and appreciated by all in spite of some rain. The gorge near Old Chelsea, Meech Lake, and Champlain Lookout were visited. The other botany outing, to Mer Bleue, had a few dropouts probably due to the weather, but about 22 people were quite enough for Erich Haber and Teresa Aniskowicz to handle in that terrain. The timing was a little early for maximum flowering, but the Mer Bleue is always an experience. Of course, ferns are botany too, and Bill Arthurs' Larose Forest fern outing was one where more persons showed up than signed up.

Rain does affect butterflies, so when none were seen for about two hours, that outing took advantage of some botanical and birding knowledge among the leaders (Ross Layberry and Peter Hall). The dozen participants also enjoyed Gatineau country scenery, especially the tremendous spill-off of the Lowe power dam.

The Alfred Bog outing was the one most requested by conference registrants - the 15 person limit was oversubscribed about 10 times. Finally, a busload was arranged plus a few cars. Going was rough and tough, with unusually high water levels below and rain above. But there was great enthusiasm and satisfaction shown for the efforts of leaders Don Cuddy and Paul Catling. The Rhodora was in full bloom, and the Bog Dragonfly was also seen. Both are known in Ontario only from the Alfred Bog. But excursionists were not aware that Paul Catling found a new plant for Ontario, the Massachusetts or Bog Fern, as he got it on a little side trip and confirmed it at home.



The nature prints from the Photo Salon were displayed for all to see in the exhibit area at the Tory Building.



Rosemarie Czirfusz of Toronto, a Photo Salon winner, and her brother Michael of London were among several hundred FON members who visited the galleries of the National Museum of Natural Sciences after the Annual Business Meeting on Friday night. Both photographs on this page are by Charlie Beddoe.

Some 30 persons - a few switching from the early Gatineau Park birding outing - enjoyed having Graham MacNay show them his Bluebird box trail. Twelve Bluebirds were seen, and veteran leaders George McGee and Bill Holland also showed the group an Osprey and some Pink Lady-slippers.

Fourteen canoes went on a pleasant outing in the Tay Marshes led by Rick Leavens.

About 18 persons went with leader Janette Dean to examine fossils near Pakenham. Janette, along with Albert Dugal and Bruce Di Labio, were the only persons to lead two major outings over the weekend. Don Hogarth led about 16 persons to explore shield geology in Gatineau Park.

#### PHOTO SALON by Jo Carson

Peter Bisset of Kitchener was named the top photographer at the FON 19th Annual Photo Salon. His study of a hawk and four nestlings was a unanimous choice by the judges but it had some stiff competition.

Judges Dorothy Black, Ottawa, Betty Gray, Kingston, and Dalton Muir, Ottawa, noted that entries were of exceptionally high quality. It took them eight tough hours to choose the winners.

There were 595 slides and 81 prints submitted in categories of Flora, Fauna, Shapes & Tones, Nature & Man, and Nature Wild. Although most of the submissions were from Ontario, others arrived from as far away as the Yukon.

Prints were on display during the conference, and the slides were shown both at Carleton University and, Sunday evening, at the National Museum of Natural Sciences. Roy Hamaguchi, FON Photo Salon chairman, arranged the presentations.

Salon winners were:

Flora: William Murtha, Brighton, 1st; Peter Bisset, Kitchener, 2nd; Cathy Braithwaite, Hamilton, 3rd.

Fauna: Bruce Overton, Pickering, 1st; Brock May, Toronto, 2nd; Ron Levitt, Trenton, 3rd.

Shapes & Tones: R.V. Ramsay, Scarborough, 1st; Joseph Pearce, Thunder Bay, 2nd; Rosemarie Czirfusz, Toronto, 3rd.

Nature & Man: All three prizes were taken by Lillian Halls, St. Catharines.

Nature Wild: John Stene, Toronto, 1st; Gordon Graham, Thunder Bay, 2nd; Donna Squire, Brockville, 3rd.

Print entries for Flora, Fauna and Nature Wild were combined due to the small number of entries in some categories. Winners for the combined group: John Simpson, Lively, Ont., 1st; Roy Roper, Burlington, 2nd; Gerhard Lehmann, North Gower, 3rd. In combined categories Shapes & Tones and Nature & Man, winners were: Jane Bremner, London, 1st; Roy Roper, Burlington, 2nd; Anita Payne, Gloucester, 3rd.

There were 33 Honourable Mention ribbons forwarded to entrants. The best in show award was a scrimshaw medallion, the original work of Yves Baril, noted engraver in ivory. First place in each category was awarded an original bird carving by artist Ellaine Dickson. Second place winners received a silver-plated medal and third place, a bronze medal.

Sorting and returning entries were in charge of committee members Walter Childers, Karin Lehmann, Betty Marwood, Jo Carson and chairman, Roy Hamaguchi. They were ably assisted by a large number of Ottawa Field Naturalists' Club members.

#### DISPLAYS AND OTHER EVENTS by Peter Hall

Organizing and participating in a conference is like making a Chinese sweet and sour dish. You always seem to teeter between too sweet (success) and too sour (disaster) right to the end. And when it's all over, and the dish consumed, you find you are still hungry for more.

The FON Conference was no exception. Judging from people's comments, the successes were there, but so were the disasters. Luckily, most were small enough or were covered over so well that few participants noticed.

My first official event on Friday evening was a tour of the displays. I knew that there were the usual problems getting displays set up - late arrivals, wrong equipment, etc - but, you wouldn't know it from the final product.

A total of 17 displays entertained visitors in the Tory Building between other events on Friday evening and Saturday. Exhibitors included: Nature Canada Bookstore, Federation of Ontario Naturalists, Mississippi Valley Conservation Authority, National Museum of Natural Sciences, Canadian Wildlife Service, Environment Canada, Rideau Valley Conservation Authority, The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club, Hamilton Naturalists' Club, Kitchener-Waterloo Naturalists' Club, Rideau Trail Association, Parks Canada, National Capital Commission, "Birdfinding in Canada", Ontario Breeding Bird Atlas Project of the FON and Long Point Bird Observatory, a Bird Banding Project, the Ontario Wetlands Project, and the Field Botanists of Ontario.



*Robert Bateman at the FON Banquet*  
photograph by Charlie Beddoe

The banquet - expected to be the pièce de résistance - lived up to its billing. After everybody apologized for his being in a rush to leave to catch a plane, Robert Bateman gave his usual witty and informative talk. His subject was his "backyard" and during the talk, he made the official announcement that the rumours were indeed true and his backyard was moving - to an island in B.C.

The banquet food was excellent and the conversation - at my table anyway - covered natural history and conservation efforts in different parts of the province. I was lucky to sit with FON members from two distant parts of the province, Oakville and Kirkland Lake.

The awards ceremony proceeded smoothly with local OFNC members receiving several major awards. The National Capital Commission received the Lee Symmes Award for the life-science inventories program conducted under the supervision of Stew Hamill. (Read the preceding article, beginning on page 212, for a summary of Stew's work this year.) Roger Taylor and Steve Gawn were awarded a Conservation Achievement Certificate for their efforts to stop the importation and raising of the raccoon dog in Canada. A Distinguished Service Award went to George Argus and David White for their efforts in publishing *The Rare Vascular Plants of Ontario* and the continuing work on the *Atlas of the Vascular Plants of Ontario*.

The seminars, as detailed in the program brochure for the conference (Supplement to Trail & Landscape, 17 (2)/March-April/1983), drew large audiences. Even with concurrent sessions running in three different locations throughout Saturday, the crowds often filled the rooms to capacity or even to standing room only.

The Friday night Annual General Meeting of the FON was also well attended despite a few transportation problems in getting people to the National Museum of Natural Sciences. The following Museum reception and tour were taken in by about 200 participants, and thanks must go to Acting Director Chuck Gruchy and his staff for hosting the evening.



*Ram's-head Lady's Slippers*, the Conference symbol, were in full flower on June 5th for those on the Alvars and Prairies outing.  
photograph by Dan Brunton

# FON Conference Volunteers

Roger Taylor

Following are lists of volunteers who were involved in the FON Conference. Although every attempt has been made to identify each person who helped in a significant way, we realize that one or two names may have been inadvertently left out. If anyone can identify a missing name, please call Roger Taylor at 731-9270 so that proper acknowledgement can be made in the next issue of *Trail & Landscape*.

Organizing Committee: Roger Taylor (Chairman)

|                  |                |                |
|------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Isabel Bayly     | Eileen Evans   | Karen McIntosh |
| Marc Bosc        | Peter Hall     | Joyce Reddoch  |
| Dan Brunton      | Rick Leavens   | Ken Taylor     |
| Barbara Campbell | Barbara Martin | Peter Walker   |
| Ellaine Dickson  | Betty Marwood  |                |

Program Development: Dan Brunton (Chairman)

|              |                |                |
|--------------|----------------|----------------|
| Peter Hall   | Don Lafontaine | Karen McIntosh |
| Stew Hamill  | Rick Leavens   | Joyce Reddoch  |
| Chuck Gruchy |                |                |

Speakers

|                |              |                 |
|----------------|--------------|-----------------|
| Bob Bateman    | Bill Crins   | Dick Harrington |
| Nigel Brereton | Don Cuddy    | Stew Hilts      |
| Monty Brigham  | Paul Eagles  | Don Hogarth     |
| Irnie Brodo    | Brock Fenton | Don Lafontaine  |
| Mike Cadman    | Jim Ginns    | Ross Layberry   |
| Paul Catling   | Peter Hall   | Mary Moore      |
| Francis Cook   | Stew Hamill  | Roger Taylor    |

Session Chairmen

|             |               |               |
|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| Ron Bedford | Frank Pope    | Joyce Reddoch |
| Dan Brunton | Allan Reddoch | Ewen Todd     |

Trip Leaders

|                   |              |                  |
|-------------------|--------------|------------------|
| Teresa Aniśkowicz | Albert Dugal | Bernie Ladouceur |
| Bill Arthurs      | Brock Fenton | Ross Layberry    |
| Isabel Bayly      | Roger Foxall | Rick Leavens     |
| Frank Bell        | Mark Gawn    | Graham MacNay    |
| Bob Bracken       | Jack Gillett | Aileen Mason     |
| Fenja Brodo       | Bob Gorman   | George McGee     |
| Irnie Brodo       | Erich Haber  | Steve O'Donnell  |
| Dan Brunton       | Peter Hall   | Wright Smith     |
| Paul Catling      | Tom Hanrahan | Roger Taylor     |
| Don Cuddy         | Don Hogarth  | Sheila Thomson   |
| Janette Dean      | Bill Holland | David White      |
| Bruce Di Labio    | Bill Illman  |                  |

# THE OTTAWA FIELD-NATURALISTS' CLUB •

THE CANADIAN FIELD-NATURALIST

OTTAWA, ONTARIO

July 1983

To : All FON Conference Workers

This letter is directed to all of you - trip leaders, speakers, organizers, registrars, etc. - who did such a magnificent job at the Federation of Ontario Naturalists Annual Conference this past June. As host club, the OFNC needed a strong expression of interest from the membership to 'carry it off' and we sure got it ! The very impressive list following this letter has the names of well over 100 individuals without whom the Conference, quite simply, would not have been possible. It's unlikely that the OFNC has ever seen such enthusiastic, spontaneous support... and it sure paid off.

All reports have it that the Conference was a huge success. Russ Tilt, FON President, suggested in a recent letter that it may have been the best ever . Not bad for a group who jumped in with half the time normally available for such organization when the previously- arranged venue fell through ! Participants not only enjoyed themselves but they learned while they were here. The Ottawa Valley -and the OFNC - has many new friends as a result.

I realize that I'm tempting fate by singling out individuals for particular commendation, but one person gave so much, so often, that he must be recognized. Rick Leavens was the work-horse - and the heart - of the organization. He was involved in virtually every aspect of the planning, execution, administration and organization of the Conference. Everything he did was conducted with enthusiasm, a concern for correctness, efficiency and skill and I'm sure I speak for all who saw his amazing performance in offering sincere thanks and congratulations.

Sincere thanks (and congratulations too) to the excellent Organizing Committee, most ably chaired by Roger Taylor, to Roy Hamaguchi's tireless Photo Salon people, to Barb Martin's efficient Registration group and to the imaginative Program subcommittee I had the pleasure of chairing ... and to EVERYONE who helped make this a thoroughly successful and memorable Conference. Well done !

Sincerely,

*Dan Brunton*

Daniel F. Brunton,  
President

FON Conference Volunteers (continued)

Drivers

|              |            |               |
|--------------|------------|---------------|
| Bill Arthurs | Jack Gates | Ross Layberry |
| Dan Brunton  | Peter Hall | Diane Lepage  |

Registration: Barbara Martin (Chairman)

|                   |                   |                  |
|-------------------|-------------------|------------------|
| Trudy Bedford     | Luella Howden     | Georgina Pickett |
| Nelson Bentley    | Edith Ikeda       | Ange Salm        |
| Vera Bentley      | Norma Johnston    | Berri Scully     |
| Marc Bosc         | Lynn Kaplansky    | Peggy Smith      |
| Eleanor Bottomley | Bill Knight       | Bette Stern      |
| Lee Cairnie       | George McGee      | Mary Stuart      |
| Anne Cameron      | Terry McGuire     | Fred Sutherland  |
| Barbara Campbell  | Carol McLurg      | Jean Sutherland  |
| Mona Coleman      | Annette Murray    | Helen Tweedie    |
| Ellaine Dickson   | Patricia Narraway | Peter Walker     |
| Charlotte Dill    | Frances Norkett   | Alice Weddall    |
| Rae Finley        | Steve O'Donnell   |                  |

Conference Packages and Mailing: Barbara Campbell (Chairman)

|                 |                    |               |
|-----------------|--------------------|---------------|
| Eileen Boyd     | Norma Johnston     | Peggy Smith   |
| Mary Boyd       | Bill Knight        | Ken Strang    |
| Ellaine Dickson | Jacqueline Lemieux | Tom Strang    |
| Fran Goodspeed  | Barbara Martin     | Helen Tweedie |

Exhibits: Eileen Evans (Chairman)

|              |               |              |
|--------------|---------------|--------------|
| Frank Bell   | Judy Hall     | Bill Knight  |
| Don Cuddy    | Peter Hall    | Rick Leavens |
| Janette Dean | Jack Holliday | Ken Taylor   |

Photo Salon: Roy Hamaguchi (Chairman)

|                 |                 |  |
|-----------------|-----------------|--|
| Darryl Abbinett | Gerhard Lehmann |  |
| Mandy Bjerklund | Karin Lehmann   |  |
| Jo Carson       | Betty Marwood   |  |
| Walter Childers | Aileen Mason    |  |
| Charlotte Dill  | Mary Stuart     |  |
| Trix Geary      | Virginia Webb   |  |
| Norma Johnston  | Alice Weddall   |  |

*Photo Salon Judges*  
Dorothy Black  
Betty Gray  
Dalton Muir

Signs:

|                 |              |
|-----------------|--------------|
| Geof Aers       | Eileen Evans |
| Frank Bell      | Jean Hastie  |
| Ellaine Dickson | Rick Leavens |

Other Important Contributions:

Geof Aers (all computer programming and editing)  
Charlie Beddoe (conference photographer)  
Dan Brunton (enthusiastic involvement by the OFNC President)  
Barbara Campbell (assembling brochures for conference kits)  
Bill Cody (arrangements for conference folders, background help)  
Ellaine Dickson (artwork, carvings for Photo Salon prizes)  
Chuck Gruchy (host for the Friday evening reception)  
Marc Guertin (artwork and all layouts for brochures and advertising)

## FON Conference Volunteers (continued)

Roy Hamaguchi (instantaneous production of suitable screen for banquet)  
Bill Knight (printing of tickets, maps, last minute changes)  
Rick Leavens (liaison with Carleton University)  
Barbara Martin (all data entry into the computer)  
Philip Martin (Alfred Bog raffle tickets)  
Cam Osler (arrangements for framing of prints for raffle prizes)  
Joyce Reddoch (*Trail & Landscape*, production of brochures and advertising)  
Helen Tweedie (arrangements for self-guided tour of Arboretum)

You will notice that many names appear in the above lists more than once, a tribute to their involvement. More than 110 people got involved, and to them all I wish to say thank you for the enthusiastic support that made the FON Conference a great success.

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## National Museum Programs

The National Museum of Natural Sciences will place emphasis on the past in September-October-November with *A Dinosaur Extravaganza* which will include related art and models. *A Vanished World* will be on view from September 15 to November 13; this presentation represents the reconstructions of local artist Eleanor M. Kish, along with a display of dinosaur models. *Dinosaurs, Mammals and Cavemen: the Art of Charles R. Knight*, the artist most responsible for the way we today envisage dinosaurs and prehistoric times, will be on view from October 16 to February 28, 1984.

Dr. D.A. Russell will present a slide talk on September 28 on his research on dinosaur extinction and on the evolution of intelligence. On October 13 Sylvia Massey Czerkas will speak on the work of Charles Knight. Both these talks will be at 8 p.m. in the Auditorium. There are also exhibits and activities for young and old, including films. Call 996-3102 for details.

Two Audubon Wildlife Films are scheduled. *The Golden Sea of Cortez* will be shown October 16, and *Hidden World of the Big Cypress Swamp* on November 17, both at 8 p.m. in the Auditorium and in English.

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# A Macoun Club Field Trip

## to the Mer Bleue

A. Latourneau, M. Manga, D. Koepke, P. Chippindale and  
S. Darbyshire

Five of us arrived at the Mer Bleue Peat Bog at about 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, May 1, 1983. We parked the car at the end of Dolman Ridge Road and walked eastwards for about a kilometre along a dirt track to the end of the sandy ridge. We then crossed a moat of open water and Speckled Alder (*Alnus rugosa*) surrounding the bog mat and hiked another kilometre to reach two small islands near the centre of the bog.

The purpose of this trip was to find the elusive Spotted Turtle (*Clemmys guttata*) which has been seen and reported more than once in this area (Cook *et al.* 1980, Cook 1981). In eastern Ontario it is known to live only in peaty habitats. We spent a lot of time looking for turtles around the islands. The beavers had cut down all the aspen trees (*Populus tremuloides*) which had once covered most of both islands.

Mer Bleue forms such an unusual ecosystem that we could not help but be fascinated by the many forms of plant and animal life we observed there. Among the various discoveries were a Mallard nest on the bog mat, a fox den on one of the island ridges along with many fox scats, mosquito larvae living in the leaves of Pitcher Plants, and many interesting ground beetles.

By the end of the trip we had found two turtles. Both were encountered on the bog mat near water as they were sunning in the afternoon. After taking a few temperature readings in various parts of the environment, it became clear why we found the turtles on the bog mat. Although the ambient air temperature was only 17°C, the temperature 2cm above the dark red and green *Sphagnum* in full sun was measured as high as 27°C. In the shallow, organic-bottom pools where the water was warmest, the temperature was recorded at 18°C. One of the most interesting features we noticed was that over most of the bog mat there was still solid ice 15 to 30 cm below the surface of the *Sphagnum* moss. Thus, although much of the bog was still frozen, the turtles were able to raise their body temperatures significantly by hauling themselves out of the water and sunning on the moss.

Human traffic in and out of the centre of Mer Bleue has worn a deep trench in the mat from the end of the Dolman Ridge to the two small islands. There are also extensive signs of traffic around these islands. It is most unfortunate to see the considerable damage naturalists have done in so short a time (in less than eight years since the turtles were first discovered here). People must always be aware of the damage that even

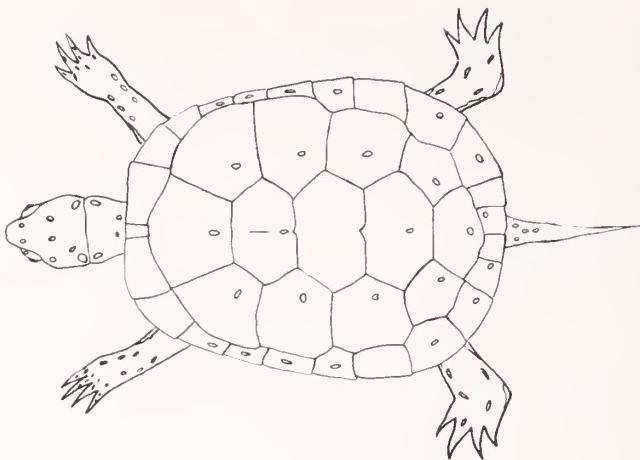


Figure A. A young female turtle (14 cm long) with a single yellow spot on each of the costal scutes and on four of the five vertebral scutes. Scutes are the large, horny scales that cover the underlying bone of the turtle shell. By counting the ridges that run concentrically from the centre of one of the scutes, we estimated the age of this turtle to be about 8 years.

illustrations by M. Manga

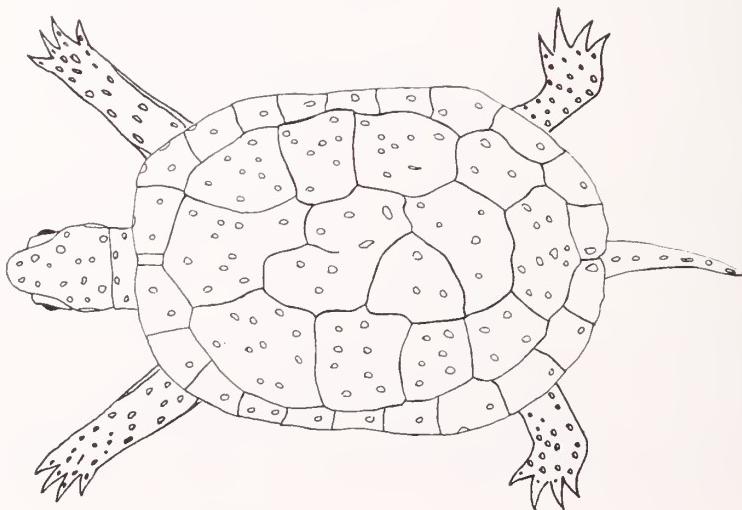


Figure B. A large female (.6.5 cm long) showing a great number of spots on each of the vertebral and costal scutes. Note the asymmetry in these scutes compared with those of the turtle in figure A. This irregularity in scute development is not uncommon in turtles and is called the dovetail syndrome. The scutes of this turtle were smooth and without a trace of ridging indicating that it is an old turtle.

footprints can do to such delicate habitats. In our conservation efforts we must be responsible for our activities in these habitats or witness the consequences to all we work for and love. In spite of the well worn trail, the walk to the islands of Mer Bleue is very arduous and should not be attempted without a compass or knowledgeable guide.

#### References

- Cook, F.R., J.D. Lafontaine, S. Black, L. Luciuk and R.V. Lindsay. 1980. *Spotted turtles (Clemmys guttata) in eastern Ontario and adjacent Quebec.* Canadian Field Naturalist 94: 411-415.
- Cook, F.R. 1981. *Amphibians and reptiles of the Ottawa District.* Revised Edition. Trail & Landscape 15(2): 75-107.

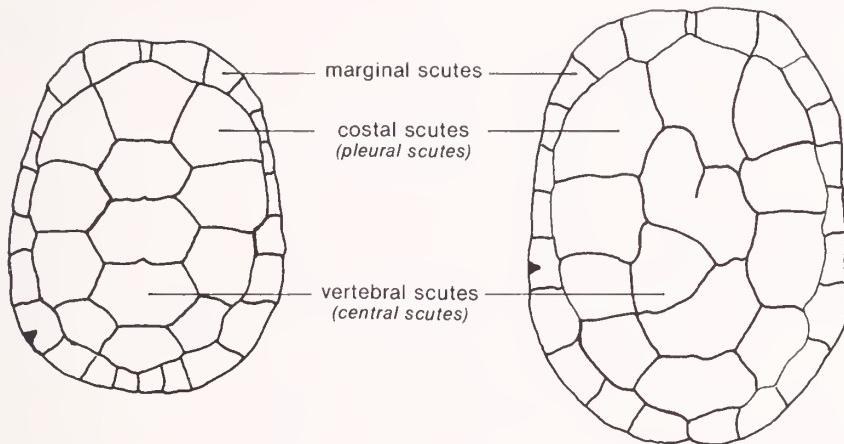


Figure C. The shells of the turtles (figure A, left; figure B right) indicating how the shells were notched for identifying these two individuals. The top of the shell (carapace) is illustrated here. Both turtles were also marked with a single notch on the under-shell (plastron) on the right anterior scute. The shell is notched by cutting out a small piece of the edge with a scalpel.

Woody plants on the bog mat where the Spotted Turtles were found included Tamarack, Black Spruce, Gray Birch, Bog Rosemary, Leatherleaf, Sheep Laurel, Bog Laurel, Labrador Tea and Blueberry species. A single young White Pine was also seen.

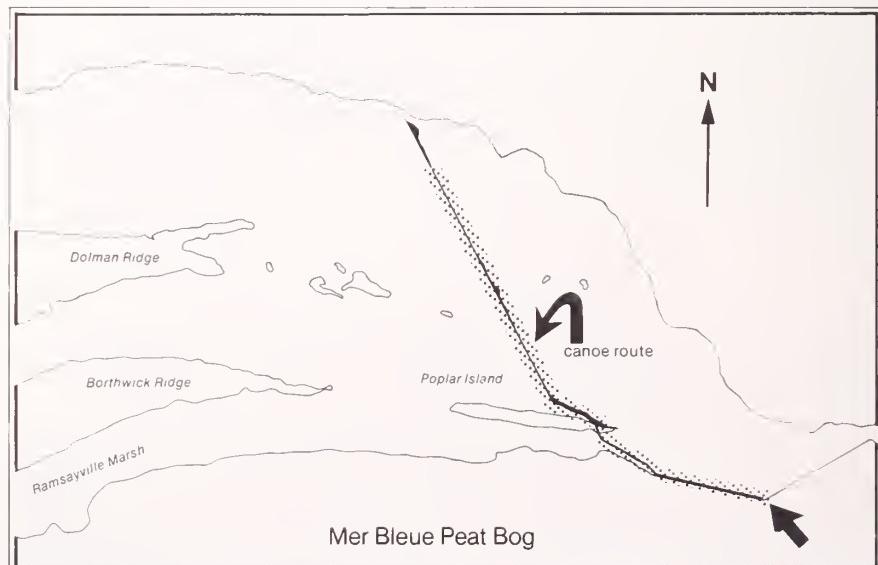
# The East End of the Mer Bleue — There and Back Again

Peter Hall

The east end of the Mer Bleue Bog has long been a place of mystery. Few, if any, people in recent years have visited this somewhat inaccessible part of this famous bog so close to Ottawa. With Ottawa being the home of so many naturalists, why had this area gone so long unexplored? Was it that tough to get in?

I decided there was only one way to find out. This is easier said than done. What you have is bog surrounded by beaver swamp and no access trails.

A study of several topographic maps did leave one possible mode of entry — a large drainage ditch that starts in the south-east corner and cuts through the centre of the eastern portion of the Mer Bleue. (See map.) Ross Layberry and I took the bull by the horns and, with Ross's canoe, set out early on a Saturday morning in May. Our main objective was to search for the elusive Bog Elfin butterfly, but we were game for any natural wonders that came our way.



The first two km of the drainage ditch were very daunting. We had to drag the canoe over 11 beaver dams, and at several points, soggy to the waist and with cattails closing in on all sides, we knew how Humphrey Bogart felt in the *African Queen*. This first stretch was largely beaver swamp with the underbrush full of Yellow Warblers, and Song, Swamp and White-throated sparrows.

Just when despair and exhaustion were setting in, we reached a 1 1/2 m high dam. On the other side, at the east end of Poplar Island, was a large pond surrounded by true bog on the north side. The bog had small Tamarack, and there was still ice down about 30 cm under the *Sphagnum*. The ditch headed off again from the west end of the pond in a northwest direction and was navigable by canoe. There was dry open bog on both sides of the ditch with Black Spruce and Tamarack.

Twice we got out to explore. At one point we disturbed a single Canada Goose, and further on a very large hawk (eagle?) circled low over the trees giving us only a momentary glimpse.

We saw no sign of the Bog Elfin, but Brown Elfin were numerous, and a few other butterflies such as Spring Azures were seen. The vegetation was typical bog plants such as Bog Laurel and Pitcher Plants.

The return trip meant hoisting the large aluminum canoe (now with a few additional dents) back over the beaver dams. All along the way we disturbed muskrat at work in the water. We may have been the first humans they ever saw.

This first taste of the remote east end of the Mer Bleue convinced us that further trips in would well pay off naturalists who are prepared to make the effort. But, it takes a tough canoe and a lot of muscle power.

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### Percy A. Taverner, Ornithologist Request for Information

Jack Cranmer-Byng, of the University of Toronto, has started working on a study of the career of Percy A. Taverner as Head of Ornithology at the National Museum of Natural Sciences (1911-1942), and, more generally, his influence on the study and enjoyment of ornithology in Canada during the first half of the present century. Jack would be very grateful for any information of a personal nature about Taverner, anecdotes, etc., or information on any correspondence with him which is still in private hands. Of special value would be information about any living relatives of Percy Taverner.

Please write to: Jack Cranmer-Byng, 190 Glengrove Avenue, Toronto, Ontario M4R 1P3.

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# The Annual Spring Trip to Presqu'ile Provincial Park

Bruce M. Di Labio

The annual Spring trip to Presqu'ile Provincial Park took place this year on April third. There were only 21 participants this year, probably due to the conflict with the Easter weekend. Despite the low turnout the group was keen, and the outing was an overall success.

The bus left from the Carlingwood Shopping Centre at 6:30 a.m. The night before it had snowed, and there were 6 cm of unplowed snow on the roads. Going southwest gradually got us out of the snow into drizzle and, finally, into just cloudy conditions. At the Park it was warmish with a light breeze off the open lake.

The birding began at Presqu'ile Bay where Ring-necked Duck, Bufflehead, Common Merganser and American Wigeon were observed in numbers. Also seen there was a Marsh Hawk and a singing Cardinal. The group then proceeded along the shore, stopping at various waterfowl viewing stations to tally altogether about 150 Redhead, 400 Canvasback, 2,000 Scaup and 75 Bufflehead. Further on, some woodland trails were checked, one trail producing a male Black-backed Three-toed Woodpecker chiseling away on a fallen tree.

Lunch break was taken at the lighthouse from where we saw small flocks of Oldsquaw, Common Goldeneye and Red-breasted Merganser. The highlight of the trip happened at the lighthouse when eight Whistling (Tundra) Swans flew over going north.

The afternoon was spent on the south edge of the Park, along Lake Ontario. A breeding-plumaged Horned Grebe was found along with a flock of about 30 Oldsquaw. From Owen Point, Ring-billed, Herring and Great Black-backed Gulls were observed on the adjacent island.

By mid-afternoon a light rain was falling and the day drew to a close with some birding near the Park entrance. Here a male Blue-winged Teal and three American Wigeon were seen. We left the Park at about 3:00 p.m. and arrived home at 6:00 p.m.

We recorded a total 47 species in the Park. Very few land birds are included in this total, and those were in low numbers. Very few dabbling ducks were present, but there seemed to be average numbers of divers. I would like to thank Bernie Ladouceur for his assistance during the trip.



Bruce Di Labio photographed the group at one of the first stops in the park.



Frank Bell used Bruce's camera to catch part of the group viewing a Horned Grebe and some Old Squaw out on the lake (Ellaine Dickson in the foreground).

# N.C.C. Programs

AT THE MER BLEUE INTERPRETATION CENTRE on the Dolman Ridge Road (off Anderson Road) in Gloucester.

Program times: 10, 11 a.m., 1, 2, 3, 4 p.m.

- Sunday, Sept. 11 SPIDERS Everything you ever wanted to know about spiders but were afraid to ask! - with our guest interpreter Dr. C. Dondale from Agriculture Canada (Ottawa's very own Spiderman)
- Sunday, Sept 18 IT'S FOR THE BIRDS Discover the fascinating world of birds through the eyes of both researcher and naturalist - with our guest interpreter Steve Wendt from the Canadian Wildlife Service. There will be birdbanding demonstrations.
- Sunday, Sept. 25 FALL FANTASY Discover our colourful fall flowers and trees.

AT THE STONY SWAMP INTERPRETATION CENTRE on Moodie Drive south of Knoxdale Road in Nepean.

- Sunday, Oct. 2 THE MAKING OF A LANDSCAPE - the geology of Stony Swamp. Join us for the opening of the "Old Quarry Trail" on Eagleson Road and view the new on-trail interpretation signs.
- Sunday, Oct. 16 FALL CLEANING Discover how nature recycles its garbage!  
10, 11 a.m., 1,  
2, 3, 4 p.m.
- Sunday, Oct 23 HIDE AND SEEK!  
10, 11 a.m., 1,  
2, 3, 4 p.m. How plants and animals prepare for winter.
- Saturday, Nov. 5 DUSK AT THE BEAVER POND Meet the naturalist, the conservation officer, the trapper and ... (maybe) the beaver!

Please note: for more information on these programs, please call the Stony Swamp Interpretation Centre at 828-3620.

# Coming Events

arranged by the Excursions and Lectures Committee  
Paul Catling (996-1665), Chairman

*Times stated for excursions are departure times. Please arrive earlier; leaders start promptly. If you need a ride, don't hesitate to ask the leader.*

## WEST END BIRD WALKS TO SEE BIRDS IN FALL MIGRATION

| <u>Date and Time</u> | <u>Leaders</u> |
|----------------------|----------------|
|----------------------|----------------|

|                                   |                             |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Sunday, 18 September<br>7:00 a.m. | Rick Killeen, Don MacKinnon |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------------|

|                                     |             |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|
| Saturday, 24 September<br>7:00 a.m. | John Dubois |
|-------------------------------------|-------------|

Meet: Britannia Drive-In Theatre, Carling Avenue. Bring Waterproof footwear and binoculars.

Saturday PONDWEED FIELD TRIP

10 Sept. Leader: Paul Catling (996-1665)

9:00 a.m. Meet: National Museum of Natural Sciences, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets, front entrance  
This is a special outing designed to enable Club members to gain a familiarity with the pondweeds. (See *Pondweeds (Potamogeton) of the Ottawa District* in *Trail & Landscape* 17(2): 79-99.) Twenty-one of the 29 species found in Canada occur in the District, and it will be our object to see all 21 in mature fruiting condition.

Sunday BIRD BANDING WITH THE OTTAWA BANDING GROUP

11 Sept. Leader: Janette Dean

5:30 a.m. This outing will be limited to 20 people. To register and obtain further details, phone the Club number (722-3050) after August 28.

Tuesday OFNC MONTHLY MEETING  
13 Sept. MEMBERS' SLIDE NIGHT  
8:00 p.m. Meet: Auditorium National Museum of Natural Sciences, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets  
This will be an excellent opportunity to share with fellow members your favourite natural history slides and reminiscences of past trips, both local and far afield. Any number of slides up to a maximum of 15 will be welcome and up to 15 minutes will be allotted for each slide presentation. Contact Rick Leavens (993-9334, 521-1254) to prearrange your presentation.

Saturday ANNUAL PICNIC: BUS TRIP TO FITZROY PROVINCIAL PARK  
17 Sept. Leaders: Ellaine Dickson and Frank Bell  
8:00 a.m. Meet: National Museum of Natural Sciences, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets, front entrance  
Because of its popularity we will be returning to the site of the '81 annual picnic. Fitzroy Provincial Park has a variety of habitats leading to a richness of bird life and interesting and unusual plants. (Two years ago, the large variety of mushrooms was a highlight of the trip. See Trail & Landscape 15(5): 260-261 (1981).) Although the forest is, for the most part, a young one, there are ancient Bur Oaks, 200-year-old White Pines and mature Basswoods. The natural riverside terraces reveal how the level of the Ottawa River dropped in stages after the withdrawal of the Champlain Sea. There will be cheddar cheese and apples to top off the participants' picnic lunches for which \$1.00 will be collected. The National Museum's Dinobus will be provided free of charge for transportation. Those wishing to go should register at least ten days in advance by phoning the Club number (722-3050).

Saturday TOUR OF THE DOMINION ARBORETUM  
24 Sept. Leader: Trevor Cole  
9:00 a.m. Meet: Dominion Arboretum (Central Experimental Farm)  
parking lot surrounding building #72.  
This will be an excellent time of year to visit the impressive collection of trees from all over the world because, besides leaves, there will be fruits and nuts to aid identification. Trevor Cole is Curator of the Arboretum; his chief interest is rock gardens.

- Saturday            MUSHROOM FIELD TRIP  
24 Sept.         Since only 25 persons can be accepted for this trip,  
or                participants must pre-register on a first-come-first-  
Sunday            served basis. To register and obtain further details  
25 Sept.          such as the final choice of date, telephone the Club  
9:00 a.m.         number, 722-3050.
- Saturday            TRIP TO MARY STUART'S FARM  
1 Oct.            Leader: Mary Stuart (820-5220)  
9:00 a.m.         Meet: Loblaw's, Carlingwood Shopping Centre,  
                    Carling Avenue at Woodroffe Avenue  
The popularity of last spring's excursion prompted  
this fall outing. The car caravan will pass  
limestone, marble and granite outcrops enroute to  
Mary's farm near Pakenham. Autumn colours should be  
at or close to their peak. Bring a picnic lunch,  
drinking water and waterproof footwear. Be prepared  
for a 2 km up and down walk on a good path to reach  
Mary's cabin, followed by a choice of general  
interest rambles over varied terrain. Call Mary the  
day before for last minute details.
- Saturday            BIRDING AT NAIRNE ISLAND AND CORNWALL POWER DAM  
1 Oct.            Leader: Bruce Di Labio  
7:00 a.m.         Meet: National Museum of Natural Sciences, Metcalfe  
                    and McLeod Streets, front entrance  
This all-day outing will take participants to Nairne  
Island (east of Morrisburg) to see waterfowl, shore-  
birds and migrants, and then to the Cornwall Power  
Dam to observe gulls as well. It will be interesting  
to compare the sightings with those of last year's  
trip, which took place six weeks later. (See Trail  
& Landscape 17(2): 72.) Dress warmly, wear waterproof  
footwear, and bring a hearty lunch. Binoculars and/or  
scopes are essential. Transportation will be by  
private cars.
- Sunday            AUTUMN TREE IDENTIFICATION FIELD TRIP  
2 Oct.            Leaders: Ellaine Dickson, Aileen Mason and the  
9:00 a.m.         Botany Study Group  
Meet: National Museum of Natural Sciences, Metcalfe  
                    and McLeod Streets, front entrance  
This is the final trip in the identification and  
location of native trees of the Ottawa area series;  
it will complement the previous winter and summer  
excursions. Those wishing to go should register at  
least ten days in advance by phoning the Club number

(722-3050). The Museum's Dinobus will be supplied free of charge for transportation. This will be a full day's outing, so bring a lunch. Don't forget your botanical keys.

|           |   |
|-----------|---|
| Tuesday   | OFNC MONTHLY MEETING  |
| 11 Oct.   | SIGNIFICANT NATURAL AREAS OF EASTERN ONTARIO  |
| 8:00 p.m. | Speaker: Don Cuddy<br>Meet: Auditorium, National Museum of Natural Sciences, Metcalfe and McLeod Streets<br>Don Cuddy, the life sciences specialist of the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources in the Eastern Region and an expert field botanist, will discuss significant natural resources both inside and outside the provincial parks system. He will emphasize what is already protected and what needs to be protected. His talk will be fully illustrated with colour slides. |

Sunday        SIXTH ANNUAL JOINT OUTING WITH THE OTTAWA RIDEAU TRAIL CLUB  
16 Oct.        10:00 a.m. Meet: Westend Shoppers City, Woodroffe Avenue and Baseline Road, behind the car wash  
General interest walk on the Old School Loop of the Rideau Trail off the North Gower - Smith's Falls Road. There are two loops of different lengths through mixed forest and abandoned farmland. The Rideau Trail Club has the use of the old school house with a stove if it is cold. Bring a snack and something to cook around a bonfire after the walk. Wear suitable clothing and footwear. For further information, telephone Eileen Evans (741-0789).

Tuesday        BIRDING AT SHIRLEYS BAY  
25 Oct.        Leader: Bruce Di Labio (729-6267)  
5:00 p.m.        Meet: Ottawa Beach (just east of Andrew Haydon Park On Carling Avenue)  
Participants will visit the ponds west of the Connaught Rifle Ranges, courtesy of the Ottawa Duck Club, to observe waterfowl. It is anticipated that seeing large flocks of ducks returning to the ponds at dusk will be a highlight of the outing. Bring waterproof footwear and binoculars or scopes.



3 5185 00267 6805

weekend  
November  
18-20

## BIRDING TRIP TO NIAGARA

Leader: Bruce Di Labio

The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club, along with Travelways, has organized an excursion to the Niagara River in November. The main purpose of the trip will be to observe the overwintering gulls and waterfowl that attract birdwatchers from many parts of North America. Bonaparte's Gulls gather in the thousands, and rare gulls such as Kittiwakes, and Black-headed, Franklin's and Little Gulls often turn up.

Accommodation will be in Michael's Inn in Niagara Falls. The facilities include a dining room with open hearth and an indoor pool. Costs for two nights including bus fare but not meals, are as follows:

Single occupancy (1 single bed) \$123.00 per person

Twin occupancy (2 single beds) 93.00 per person

Triple occupancy (2 double beds) 83.00 per person

Quadruple occupancy (2 double beds) 77.00 per person

Interested persons should pre-register by telephoning the Club number (722-3050). Payment in full must be received by October 15 and should be sent to Ellaine Dickson, 2037 Honeywell Avenue, Ottawa K2A 0P7.

(Payment should be made by cheque or money order payable to The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club.)

The weather is likely to be cold and damp, and participants should dress accordingly. Bring binoculars, and a scope if you have one.

The bus will leave at 5:00 p.m. on November 18 from the Travelways office on Innis Road east of Highway 417. Have something to eat before you board the bus, or bring a meal on the bus as no dinner stopover is planned. The bus will be returning to Ottawa on Sunday evening, November 20.

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**DEADLINE:** Material intended for the November-December issue must be in the Editor's hands before September 3.

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T R A I L & L A N D S C A P E

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